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September 21, 2011

Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: *Serious concerns about the draft Delta Plan*

Dear Chairman Isenberg and Members of the Council:

On behalf of the Vista Irrigation District, I am writing to express our concerns with the draft Delta Plan being developed by the Delta Stewardship Council. Though the fifth draft plan shows some improvement over previous drafts, we are concerned it will not meet the co-equal goals of improved water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem health in its current form.

We are very concerned that the draft plan is vague about what kind of water supply we can expect in the future. Our District cannot adequately plan and pursue opportunities without some certainty as to its future water supplies. California simply cannot afford to advance any plan that creates local uncertainty and economic instability at this time.

While we continue to work regionally to secure a safe, reliable and economical supply of water, we need to have some level of certainty that water flowing through the Delta will continue to be available to assist us in meeting our customers' water needs. Our customers have implemented water-use efficiency measures and have reduced their water use by 25%, exceeding the requirements of SBX7-7. As they continue to do their part in helping California reduce pressures on the Delta, they deserve some level of assurance that this water source will be available in the future.

It is also extremely troubling that the plan attempts to dictate local water management decisions on everything from rate structures to recycling targets. That level of micromanagement from Sacramento undercuts local planning hundreds of miles from the Delta. The council should focus its energy instead on improving our water supplies and the ecosystem health of the Delta.

We respectfully urge the council to fully consider these concerns and discuss the Alternate Delta Plan developed by statewide water, business and agricultural interests through the Ag-Urban Coalition. We urge council members to work with the coalition to indentify the best options for meeting the co-equal goals. We simply must get this plan right for the sake of our water supply, our economy and our environment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Roy A. Coox
General Manager